

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We ask you, as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, to reverse course and oppose President Donald Trump's "Muslim Ban." We love our country and are saddened by the divisive and hateful actions being wrongfully taken in the name of national security. Mr. Trump's recent Executive Order, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," makes us less secure as a country.

As articulated in the Executive Order, the halt of all refugee admissions for 120 days and of the admission of Syrian refugees indefinitely and the ban completely on immigration from 7 majority-Muslim nations for 90 days drive a sledgehammer through the founding principles of our nation. The breadth of this sweeping order jeopardizes U.S. national security interests and endangers tens of thousands of lives and will undermine the national security of the U.S. in perpetuity. This was made clear in the letter issued on January 30, 2017 in which a bi-partisan group of national security leaders from both the Bush and Obama administrations, including Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, CIA Director General Michael Hayden, and 80+ former senior government officials, diplomats, military service members, and intelligence community professionals, explain how the Executive Order jeopardizes national security.

A growing number of current U.S. State Department officials share this same concern in a Dissent Channel Memo which asserts that the Executive Order will not achieve its stated goal of making the U.S. safer because "such a policy runs counter to core American values of nondiscrimination, fair play, and extending a warm welcome to foreign visitors and immigrants." This echoes the judgment of Defense Secretaries and CIA Directors, including Chuck Hagel, Leon Panetta, and General David Petraeus, who argued in a 2015 letter to Congress that legislative action to keep out Syrian refugees and other vulnerable Muslims from the region would fuel the ISIS narrative that there is a war between Islam and the West. The expert opinions of esteemed Republican, Democratic, and career officials in national security and foreign affairs all conclude that the policy articulated in this Executive Order is dangerous, and quite frankly, un-American.

As Members of Congress, and as Americans, we are deeply troubled by the chaos that resulted throughout the country in the aftermath of the Executive Order being signed last Friday. The federal agencies charged with its immediate implementation received neither sufficient warning nor sufficient guidance regarding a major change in both foreign and immigration policy. That recklessness resulted in countless of our constituents or their families and friends being unnecessarily detained or removed without meaningful access to counsel or due process. In fact, we continue to hear that federal agents are not complying with the federal court orders issuing emergency stays so that individuals are not removed from the U.S. And, we find it especially outrageous and counter to American values that the 67,000 approved refugees who have already been extensively vetted and have already suffered grave persecution are waiting in limbo as a result of President Trump's Executive Order.

To quote the words on our dear Statue of Liberty, "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." That's who we are as Americans. We are a country that welcomes the poorest and most vulnerable among us. We are not and should not be a nation that embraces these hurtful and nonsensical anti-refugee and anti-Muslim policies. We are better than that.

We know that you yourself are proud of your Irish immigrant heritage. As you stated last year when hosting Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, "I've always taken a special pride in my Irish roots. My family comes from Graigueenamanagh in County Kilkenny. My wife and I took our kids there last year. And we went to one of the homesteads that my ancestors farmed." We are all proud of our own unique heritage which taken together creates the unique fabric of the United States of America. We are discouraged that you have stood by President Trump's discriminatory and dangerous ban on refugees and immigrants and have downplayed the implementation as "regrettably . . . confusing." For the love of our country and all that it represents, we urge you to oppose President Trump's callous anti-immigrant, anti-American actions. It is clear that the success of the U.S. has long run parallel to the success of our immigrant community. We plead you to speak up – for all Americans, regardless of party – to condemn these un-American and downright dangerous actions.

Thank you,



**Rep. Adriano Espaillat**



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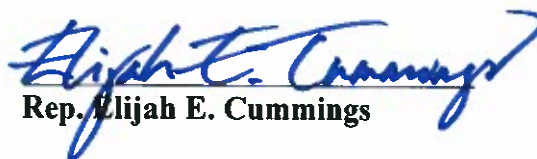
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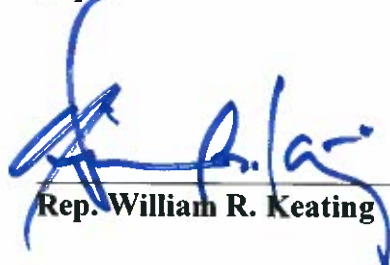
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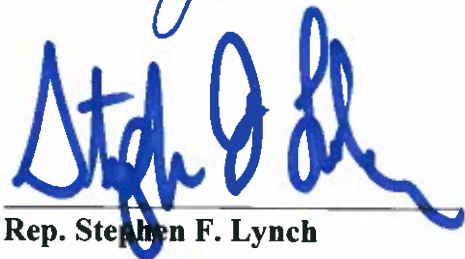
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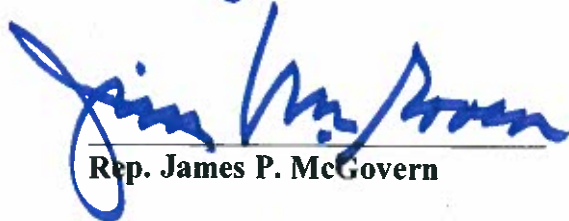
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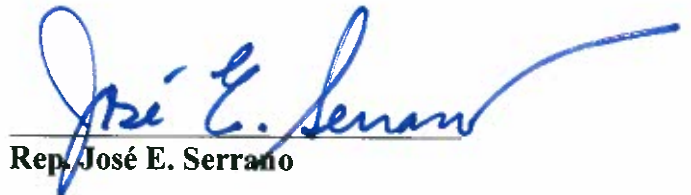
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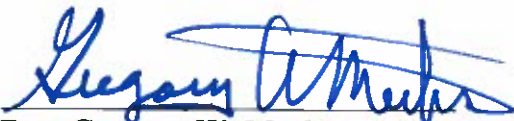
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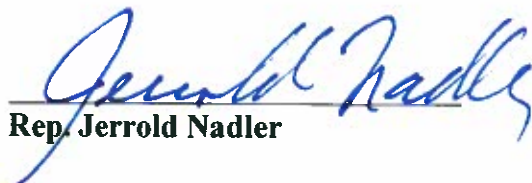
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